International Atomic Energy Agency
INFORMATION CIRCULAR

INF

INFCIRC/554
19 May 1998

GENERAL Distr.
Original: ENGLISH

COMMUNICATION OF 15 MAY 1998 RECEIVED FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF JAPAN TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Attached is a communication received from the Permanent Mission of Japan, forwarding statements by the Chief Cabinet Secretary of the Government of Japan, for the information of Member States.

For reasons of economy, this document has been printed in a limited number.

98-01673

INFCIRC/554
Attachment

PERMANENT MISSION OF JAPAN
VIENNA

Andromeda Tower
Donau-City Strasse 6
A-1220 Vienna, Austria
tel.: +43 1/26063-0
fax: +43 1/263 6750

Ref. No.: JPM/A/E-72-98

15 May 1998

Madam,

I have the honour to submit to you herewith the additional comments by the Chief Cabinet Secretary of Japan regarding Indias nuclear testing.

I would greatly appreciate it if the Agency could distribute this document to all Member States.

Accept, Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

高岡正人

Masato Takaoka

Alternate to the Resident
Representative of Japan
to the IAEA

Enc.: As Noted

Ms. Odette Jankowitsch
Head of Government and Inter-Agency Affairs Section
Division of External Relations
IAEA VIC Rm. A-2706

Comments by the Chief Cabinet Secretary
on Measures in Response to Nuclear Testing Conducted by India

13 May 1998
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

1. It is extremely regrettable that India conducted nuclear testing on 11 May, defying the global trend toward a ban on nuclear testing. On 12 May, Minister for Foreign Affairs Keizo Obuchi summoned Mr. Singh, Ambassador of India in Tokyo and expressed our dismay, stating that Japan strongly urges the Indian Government to stop its development of nuclear weapons at an early stage.

2. This nuclear testing by India is a challenge to the efforts by the international society which seeks a world free from nuclear weapons, and can never be tolerated. Japan reiterates its demand that India stop nuclear testing immediately and sign the NPT and the CTBT at an early stage.

3. Therefore, the Government has decided to take the following measures in view of the principle of the ODA Charter:

(1) Grant aid for new projects will be frozen, except emergency and humanitarian aid and Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects.

(2) The Government will decide on specific measures on yen-loan programs toward India, examining the actions to be taken by the Indian side.

(3) Regarding the India Development Forum (IDF) to be chaired by the World Bank in Tokyo on 30 June and 1 July 1998, the Government will inform the World Bank that Japan wishes to withdraw its intention to host this meeting in Tokyo.

4. Japan is also determined to maintain its strict control on transfers of items and technologies related to weapons of mass-destruction to India.

(end of comments)

May 13, 1998

Comments by the Cheif Cabinet Secretary on the Nuclear Testing conducted by India

1. On 13 May, India conducted two more underground nuclear tests. It is extremely regrettable that India has repeated its nuclear testing in defiance of the strong protests and messages against the tests made on 11 May by Japan and the international community. Japan takes this situation very seriously and strongly protests against India. Japan reiterates its strong demand that India stop its nuclear development and testing and, at the same time, appeals to the international society to unite in facing the threat to nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. Japan is deeply concerned at the potential harm to the stability of the region caused by the Indian nuclear testing and calls again upon the countries concerned in the region to exercise maximum self-restraint.

2. Facing this situation, at night on 13 May, Foreign Minister Keizo Obuchi again summoned Mr. Singh, Ambassador of India, explained our stand, and conveyed the above message to the Indian Government.

The Government, today, announced in comments by the Chief Cabinet Secretary its measures in response to india's nuclear testing. The Government will have to consider additional steps as the situation develops.

(END)

Comments by the Chief Cabinet Secretary on Measures in Response to the Second Nuclear Testing conducted by India

14 May, 1998

1 It is extremely regrettable that India conducted two more nuclear tests on 13 May. Taking this situation very seriously, the Government of Japan has reiterated its strong demand to India that nuclear testing and development of nuclear weapons be stopped. This new development, as was also explained in my Comments on 13 May, has forced the Government to consider additional measures in light of the principle of the ODA Charter. The Government has now decided to take the following additional measures.

(1) Yen-loan for new projects to India will be frozen.

(2) The Government will cautiously examine the loans extended to India by international financial institutions.

2. Taking this new development into account, Japan will also make Ambassador to India Mr. Hirabayashi temporarily return to Japan, to discuss the issue. In addition, on the occasion of the G8 Summit Meetings in Birmingham, the Government will propose to G8 members that they strongly urge India to work positively toward the participation in the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

(End of comments)